

NATIONAL SALUTE TO
HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, 2005 I attended the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center's National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program in Houston, Texas.

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans takes place each year during the week of February 14 to honor the more than 98,000 veterans of the U.S. Armed Services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, outpatient clinics, and nursing homes.

At the Program, Harry E. Dearen of Houston read the following poem he wrote in October 1996 to honor our veterans:

AND THEN I CRY

[By H. Dearen]

Of the price of the days of glory. And then I cry.

For the freedom and the story. And then I cry.

As I think of the wars that have past. And then I cry.

For our countries greatness, it will last. And then I cry.

For old glory and to make things right. And then I cry.

In the lands out over the sea. And then I cry. That for others they might be free. And then I cry.

For every one that heeded the call. And then I cry.

For those that have died for the good of all. And then I cry.

As we honor our veterans this week during the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, I wanted to share this poem with my colleagues.

This poem pays tribute to our veterans, reminds us all of the sacrifices they made, and is a lasting reminder of what they sacrificed for.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
JIMMIE HOLMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Ameri-

cans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize The Honorable Jimmie Holman of Quitman County. Mr. Holman is the first African-American Mayor of Marks, Mississippi. Mr. Holman was elected Mayor of the Town of Marks, Mississippi in 1987 in a special election to fill an unexpired term and was elected to a full term in the following Mayoral Election. He also holds the distinction of being the first African American Sheriff Deputy of Quitman County, MS.

In 1969 during the organizing effort of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), "Poor People Campaign-March on Washington," the Holman family opened up their home to civil rights workers, one of them Andrew "Andy" Young.

In 1968, Mr. Holman supported his family by working as a plumber at Consumer Gas Company for less than minimum wage when Andy Young and his wife Louise convinced him that he would do better working for himself. The Holman family continued to house and support their guest until they left in June of that year. Following the departure of Andy and his team, Mr. Holman declared his economic independence by becoming his own boss.

Following a four year apprenticeship under Austin Jones, a master bricklayer, Jimmie Holman built his first house. Their next venture, a discount clothing store was opened in 1985, followed by an Amoco Service station and Convenience Store. The Holman's businesses have been successful because of their appeal to all segments of Quitman County for the past twenty years. Jimmie Holman is more than a businessman and former politician; he is a citizen that supports his community.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

TAIWAN STRAIT RELATIONS

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise and join my colleagues in expressing my concerns about China's proposed anti-secession law, which is highly provocative and may cause a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, the proposed law assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, passage of this law can embolden China to legally push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is obviously, a scenario we would not like to see.

Understandably, the 23 million people of Taiwan are very upset over this proposed law, for they have lived under a full-fledged democracy, and enjoyed highest standard of freedom and human rights. Although some people might argue that any country should have the right to enact a domestic law, but if a country's freedom and well-being are endangered because of that law, then the countries who are defenders of freedom and democracy around the world, shouldn't stand aside and tolerate the situation to escalate.

I hope Chinese leaders will exercise their wisdom and not adopt this anti-secession law this March. I also urge the international community to join us to voice their disapproval of this law. Inaction by the United States and other concerned countries will send a dangerous signal to China and encourage China to escalate its political rhetoric against a democratic country.

We do not need any military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or ever. I encourage my colleagues to tell our Chinese friends in Beijing that they should appreciate the contributions that the Taiwanese have made to the Chinese economy. China should also know that Taiwan stands ready to discuss and negotiate any issue with China. The Taiwanese people desire a peaceful coexistence with their Chinese brethren and have no desire to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is important that the U.S. maintain focus and resolve on this issue, and I encourage China to do away with the proposed anti-secession law so as to not upset the balance of peaceful relations in the region.

HONORING SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 185th birthday of Susan B. Anthony, I wish to honor her for her courageous effort in ensuring that all women receive the respect and dignity they truly deserve.

Susan B. Anthony was one of the greatest women advocates in history. She is known not only for her fight to gain women the right to vote, but also for her great courage in fighting for the rights of the unborn.

She was a feminist who fought tirelessly to protect the dignity of motherhood, which she believed to be an inherent right of all women.

I am proud to honor Susan B. Anthony for her dedication to preserving the precious gift of life and I hope that my colleagues will join me in promoting a true culture of life.

THE MURDER OF AMERICAN NUN
DOROTHY STANG

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the killing of Dorothy Stang. She was caught in the crossfire at a settlement of landless peasants established on a state-run development reserve near the town of Anapu, about 1,300 miles north of Rio de Janeiro.

On Saturday February 12, 2005, Dorothy Stang, a 74-year-old American nun, was murdered in Brazil. She was shot four times at point-blank range.

She had been working and living in the region for more than three decades. Ms. Stang was bringing the word of God to the poor and downtrodden, while championing the environmental and human rights of Brazil's impoverished and landless peasants. She had spent

decades fighting illegal loggers and ranchers in the jungle.

Tragically, nine days before her death, Dorothy Stang warned Brazil's Human Rights Minister that she and farmers faced constant death threats and needed protection. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has launched a federal investigation into the case and called a special cabinet meeting.

Dozens of land activists are killed each year in Brazil as they confront militias armed and paid by landowners. Few cases are solved in rural areas, where local police forces are often allied with the landowners.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the government of Brazil to work toward a permanent end to the violence and to disarm and disband all illicit armed militia. I call upon the government of Brazil to implement judicial and police reforms to stem the rising violence, and take immediate measures to protect human rights defenders and land activists from death threats.

President Lula's investigation into this case must be transparent and the perpetrators of this murder must be brought to justice.

CHINA'S PROPOSED "ANTI-SECESSION LAW"

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, after Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian was elected to a second term last March, he has attempted to reach out to China on many occasions in hopes that cross-strait relations could be improved. Unfortunately, China has not responded positively to Chen's many goodwill gestures. The massive Chinese military build-up along the coast continues, China's bellicose rhetoric continues, and China is now planning to enact an "anti-secession (or anti-separation) law" aimed specifically at Taiwan. Understandably, the Taiwanese people have been reacting to this proposed law with alarm. If Chinese leaders persist in passing this law, Taiwan might be forced to enact an anti-annexation law of its own as a proper response to China.

This battle of laws is most unfortunate in view of the fact that cross-strait relations have been improving in recent days. On January 15 this year China and Taiwan agreed to have direct charter flights during the Chinese New Year holidays, and both sides agreed to continue to work toward restoring direct trade, transport and postal ties—the "three links." Moreover, the economies of China and Taiwan have grown increasingly interdependent as Taiwanese businesses have invested as much as \$100 billion in China and as many as one million Taiwanese now live and work on the mainland.

The latest controversy about China's proposed anti-secession law has once again highlighted the political division between China and Taiwan. China is seeking to unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and force its own style of government on the 23 million people of Taiwan. China has totally ignored Taiwan's contributions to China's strong economy and President Chen's repeated gestures of good will.

We must alert everyone that China's latest move to enact the anti-secession law will not only destroy the goodwill between the people of Taiwan and China, it is also unnecessarily provocative and will lead to escalating tension in the Taiwan Strait. Taiwanese people should not sit idly by and allow authoritarian Chinese government to mandate the annexation of democratic Taiwan; neither should any freedom-loving people in the world.

By unilaterally changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, China is also challenging America's will to stand behind the Taiwan Relations Act which says unequivocally that it is the policy of the United States "to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan." The Taiwan Relations Act also affirms one of the objectives of the United States as "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan."

Mr. Speaker, it is my view that China's proposed anti-secession law is provocative and dangerous and poses a grave threat to peace and stability in the region. I urge the Chinese government to step back from confrontation and stay on the path to reconciliation and friendship with the free people of Taiwan.

THE OCCASION OF THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in extending my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh on the anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite with Armenia and reverse the injustice perpetrated by the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

This peaceful and legal request was met with violent reaction by the Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership, and escalated into full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh bravely defended their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a capable armed forces and independent foreign policy.

I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh in celebrating their continuing freedom and democracy.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO JESSIE D. BANKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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cans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

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Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Jessie D. Banks of Holmes County, Mississippi. A native of Tchula, MS, Mrs. Banks received her Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1963 and served as an elementary school teacher in Tchula until 1986. Mrs. Banks is not only noted in Holmes County for her long and distinguished career in education, but also for her dedication in public service and the political arena.

Mrs. Banks was elected as the first African-American Alderwoman for the City of Tchula in 1977. Mrs. Banks served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Atlanta in 1988 and in Chicago in 1992. In 1989, she was elected as the first African American woman mayor of the City of Tchula. She was re-elected mayor in 1993. Mrs. Banks returned as a delegate to the DNC in Los Angeles in 2000 and the 2004 DNC convention in Boston.

Mrs. Banks' public service and political career spans many other public endeavors including NAACP President for Holmes county, Commissioner of Regional 6 Housing Authority, and membership in Habitat for Humanity, The National Council of Negro Women and a life member of the National Alumni Association for Mississippi Valley State University.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES EARL MOBLEY, AGRICULTURE 'STATESMAN'

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a personal friend and a longtime resident of Shorterville in Henry County, Alabama in my Congressional district who passed away on February 15.

Among the sizeable farming community in Alabama, James Earl Mobley would need no introduction. He was a tall man both physically and in character. Indeed, for many years in the Halls of Congress, Mobley was also well-known to more than a few agriculture lawmakers.

Considered a 'statesman' of agriculture, Mobley's diplomatic skill, coupled with his vast knowledge of peanut farming, were assets to growers, the industry and Congress. For decades there was probably no stronger, or more